

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 10, and 11 remain pending in this application. Claims 3-9 and 12-22 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 2 and 23 were previously canceled. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The amendment made to claim 1 does not alter the scope of this claim, nor has this amendment been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendment to claim 1 has been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendment and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by WO 024/063,571 (“Huegle”), which was also published as U.S. Application No. 2004/021,763. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Among the imitations of claim 1 not presenting Huegle is “the print head is configured to move longitudinally together with the printing unit in the push-in direction.”

As disclosed in the present specification, printing unit 4 is mounted in a housing such that it can move in the push-in direction 11. The printing unit 4 has a print head 5 fastened to the printing unit 4. The printing unit 4 has a first fork-shaped centering element 28. The first centering element 28 of the printing unit 4 interacts with a second centering element 29 on transport unit 8 of carrier 10 such that the transport unit 8 is centered relative to the printing unit 4 and the print head 5.

The Examiner has taken the position that because the phrase “the print head is configured to move together with the printing unit and push-in direction and the print unit is configured to be moved in the housing within a movement play” is presented as a wherein clause, it is merely a functional recitation of a desired mode of operation and fails to recite any structural elements to

provide that specific function. Applicants disagree that this is merely a desired mode of operation. The clause limits the overall structure by requiring that the print head move together with the printing unit in the push-in direction. Thus, the Examiner is incorrect and the limitations presented in this clause must be considered.

The Examiner further notes that a pivoting movement of the print head creates a movement of the print unit and the print head in a push-in direction to some extent. Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite that the print head is configured to move longitudinally together with the print unit and the push-in direction. In other words, the claimed print head only has a linear motion component, not a radial motion component. The explicit recitation that the print head moves longitudinally together with the print head is unlike the radial movement of the print head in Huegle. In fact, the print head in Huegle only has a radial component and does not move longitudinally together with the printing unit. Therefore, Huegle does not anticipate claim 1 as amended.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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